

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 486-2113

Property Taxes Increase 2.1 Percent for 2002

OLYMPIA, Wash., Oct. 10, 2002— Property taxes increased an average of 2.1 percent statewide between 2001 and 2002, equal to \$55 on a \$200,000 home, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

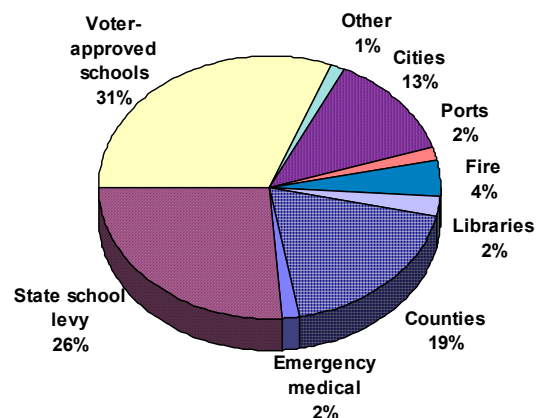
Property Tax Statistics - 2002, the agency's annual compilation of property tax data, showed that property tax levies grew by 4.7 percent in 2002, but new construction added to the tax rolls in the past year accounted for most of the increase.

The slow rate of growth in taxes is due mainly to the voter approval of Initiative 747 last November. I-747 limited taxing districts to 1 percent annual increases in taxes without voter approval. I-747 does not limit additional tax revenues generated by new construction, nor the use of "banked capacity" by districts that had collected less than their maximum rates in the past.

The statewide average tax bill on a home assessed at \$200,000 in 2001 rose \$55 to \$2,647 for 2002. This is based on a property rising in assessed value by 5.7 percent but rates dropping 44 cents per \$1,000 to \$12.52 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The average change in taxes varied by

**Property Tax Distribution
\$5.77 billion in 2002**



county. The tax on a \$200,000 King County home rose 3 percent to \$2,453. Taxes were up 1.3 percent in Snohomish County, 3.1 percent in Pierce County, and 2.3 percent in Spokane County. Some counties experienced sharp increases or decreases in taxes, generally due to the passage or failure of voter-approved levies and bonds from year to year.

The table below shows average changes by county. These averages do not reflect changes in taxes on any specific property. Taxes depend on a property's location within various taxing districts such as cities and school districts, whether or not school levies and other voter-approved measures were approved or rejected, and how much the property has changed in value relative to other properties in a district. Taxes can increase by more than 1 percent on properties that are rising in assessed value more quickly than others within a taxing district, but this would be offset by lower taxes on slower-growing properties so the overall revenue increase does not exceed the 1 percent limit.

In 1999, the most recent year for which national comparisons are available, Washington ranked 18th highest among the states in property taxes per \$1,000 personal income. Taxes equaled \$35.39 per \$1,000 income,

compared to a

national average of
\$32.52.

Washington's ranking

is expected to drop

significantly when

the 2000 comparisons

become available

because of the effects

of Initiative 695,

which led to the

elimination of the

Tax Changes on Existing Properties by County

Based on a home assessed at \$200,000 for 2001 taxes

County	Average tax*		Tax		% Change		County	Average tax*		Tax		% Change	
	2001	2002	Change					2001	2002	Change			
Adams	\$ 2,746	\$ 2,708	\$ (38)		-1.4%		Lewis	\$ 2,416	\$ 2,332	\$ (84)		-3.5%	
Asotin	\$ 2,886	\$ 2,949	\$ 63		2.2%		Lincoln	\$ 2,810	\$ 2,865	\$ 55		2.0%	
Benton	\$ 2,914	\$ 2,882	\$ (32)		-1.1%		Mason	\$ 2,492	\$ 2,610	\$ 118		4.7%	
Chelan	\$ 2,647	\$ 2,678	\$ 31		1.2%		Okanogan	\$ 2,529	\$ 2,519	\$ (10)		-0.4%	
Clallam	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,284	\$ (78)		-3.3%		Pacific	\$ 2,535	\$ 2,463	\$ (72)		-2.8%	
Clark	\$ 2,747	\$ 2,780	\$ 33		1.2%		Pend Oreille	\$ 2,684	\$ 2,658	\$ (27)		-1.0%	
Columbia	\$ 2,799	\$ 2,786	\$ (14)		-0.5%		Pierce	\$ 3,054	\$ 3,150	\$ 96		3.1%	
Cowlitz	\$ 2,396	\$ 2,438	\$ 42		1.8%		San Juan	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,738	\$ 69		4.1%	
Douglas	\$ 2,857	\$ 2,812	\$ (44)		-1.6%		Skagit	\$ 2,533	\$ 2,608	\$ 75		2.9%	
Ferry	\$ 2,247	\$ 2,282	\$ 35		1.6%		Skamania	\$ 2,098	\$ 2,123	\$ 25		1.2%	
Franklin	\$ 3,068	\$ 3,094	\$ 26		0.9%		Snohomish	\$ 2,786	\$ 2,822	\$ 37		1.3%	
Garfield	\$ 3,194	\$ 3,098	\$ (96)		-3.0%		Spokane	\$ 2,963	\$ 3,029	\$ 67		2.3%	
Grant	\$ 2,883	\$ 2,890	\$ 7		0.2%		Stevens	\$ 2,320	\$ 2,303	\$ (17)		-0.7%	
Grays Harbor	\$ 2,606	\$ 2,657	\$ 52		2.0%		Thurston	\$ 3,061	\$ 3,089	\$ 28		0.9%	
Island	\$ 2,048	\$ 1,743	\$ (305)		-14.9%		Wahkiakum	\$ 2,051	\$ 2,055	\$ 5		0.2%	
Jefferson	\$ 2,437	\$ 2,455	\$ 18		0.7%		Walla Walla	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,955	\$ 30		1.0%	
King	\$ 2,382	\$ 2,453	\$ 71		3.0%		Whatcom	\$ 2,593	\$ 2,626	\$ 33		1.3%	
Kitsap	\$ 2,636	\$ 2,983	\$ 347		13.2%		Whitman	\$ 2,935	\$ 3,047	\$ 112		3.8%	
Kittitas	\$ 2,140	\$ 2,230	\$ 90		4.2%		Yakima	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,476	\$ (174)		-6.6%	
Klickitat	\$ 2,350	\$ 2,570	\$ 221		9.4%		Statewide	\$ 2,592	\$ 2,647	\$ 55		2.1%	

motor vehicle excise tax beginning in 2000. That tax is included in the property tax comparisons because it is a tax in lieu of property taxes.

Visit http://dor.wa.gov/content/Statistical_Reports/stats_proptaxstats_report.asp for the report.

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